

Clean Water Council

Meeting Highlights

January 8, 2002

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

CWC Public Hearing Results

- Public Hearing was well attended.
- Approximately 20 People testified at the Hearing.
- CWC membership attendance **not** well represented.
- Education of the public and the Municipal governments was strong theme of Hearing.
- Stormwater discussion was mainly directed at **new** growth rather than **existing** development.
- Tracy Carlucchio from Delaware Riverkeepers Network gave an excellent presentation with ideas CWC should review and consider.
- Bill Wolf's comments demonstrated that the Environmental Groups are starting to pay attention to CWC.

Action Item

- CWC will set up a committee to review the transcript from the meeting, a video and other materials submitted at the Public Hearing by presenters.
- Ray Zabihach will be the lead for the Review Committee. Other members who will join him are: Pat Matarazzo, Todd Kratzer, Barry Sullivan, Ali Ferdows and Dave Stedfast.
- Kerry Kirk Pflugh requested that when review is completed, the CWC make specific recommendations, and suggest ideas and techniques to aid in the development of an Outreach/Education Program in order to reach the public.

Watershed Awareness Month

- Kerry Kirk Pflugh commented on Watershed Awareness Program.
 - Itinerary would include awards, contests, presentations, a luncheon and a key-note speaker.
 - Another possibility would be hands-on activities.
 - Tour of one of the Watersheds
 - Storm drain marking in a Community
 - Mini-restoration demo
- CWC would like to co-sponsor this event with DEP, incorporating their Seminar usually held in May.
- CWC would like to have open discussion in forum to receive input from all different Watersheds around the state.

TMDL Update

- The Implementation Process: Phase 2 of Stormwater Federal Regulations, TMDL Process, Source Water Assessment Program and the Well-Head Protection Program are all converging and all go down to Municipal levels.

- CWC should be recommending how best to communicate these processes to the local Mayors and local Councils.
- Input should be at beginning of the process rather than trying to retrofit it after the process.
- TMDL's have to meet Water Quality Standards
- NJ will be doing a modified version of a TMDL
- TMDL Process will address new development as well as existing
- Important TMDL Seminar will be held by the NJ Water Resources Research Institute, at Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, on the Busch Campus. Pre-Seminar reception will be held in the Fiber Optics Auditorium at 4:00 pm, followed by the Seminar at 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm.

Watershed Management Update

- Kerry Kirk Pflugh suggested that CWC members attend PAC (Public Advisory Committee) meetings in order to plan more appropriately in an Environmental way.
- Watershed Management is about identifying the root causes of the problem and getting to the answer.
- Watershed Management is coordinating with the Office of State Planning.
 - There is a group within DEP that reviews plan amendments for Wastewater Management.
- Methods of how best to reach Municipal levels are being examined.
 - Go to them or bring them to our meetings.
 - Bringing the Environmental Community into the process and working with them.

General Stormwater Comments

- Ray Zabihach stated that we are behind in basic scientific data. We need to educate the people to understand that in order to do Stormwater properly, it will involve spending a lot of money. We have to start looking at the pollutant loads that are coming off the streets and people's yards and create an effective program to address these existing issues.
- Kerry Pflugh stated that monitoring and evaluation are going on. These problems all fall under non-point source pollution. We need to determine whether causes are existing development or other things.
- Barbara Rich stated that as part of an application process regarding new development, the town where she is from, has instituted a Stormwater consultant to advise the Environmental Advisory Committee. It seems to work.
 - Bringing Environmental people on board, to agree as partners, where the development should occur, is an ideal solution.
 - Public should be educated at the local level on the why, what and where recharge can be done and how it will affect them personally.
- Tom Baxter commented that Water Supply is getting their Master Plan updated.
 - Recharge is a big issue.
 - Northeast and Coastal North are hot areas.
 - Safe Yield is important. Do we have enough water?
- Barbara Rich commented that DRBC is doing a study on the possibility of getting water supply from other states.
- Ali Ferdows informed CWC there were improvements on reducing load levels of Medical Waste. He commented that 50% of atmospheric pollution is from out of state. Duck and Horse industries now do not need to be regulated as stringently.

Announcements

- CWC Ocean County member, John Kelly, has resigned.
- Commissioner Shinn's retirement date is January 15, 2002. No news on who will be new Commissioner as of yet.
- Pam Goodwin will be our Inext Chairwoman of CWC.
- Dave Baker announced that the Water Environment Federation's May Conference will be held the first week of May at the Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. The cost of the seminar will be low.

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- **Luncheon was not served at the CWC meeting due to State budget cuts.**